

April 2008
NORTHERN COMMAND

SAFESTAT REPORT

DPS/Highway Patrol Division
Major Tony Almaraz

Overview

The Northern Command experienced another slight drop in total crashes for the month of April 2008. Some of this can be attributed to the below average precipitation normally experienced in the area. Additionally, the troopers have been working diligently in the core areas within the Reno / Carson area in attempts to provide a deterrent during the rush hour traffic. The Rural districts continue to have consistant average crashes with +/- 1 due to crashes involving animals on the highway.

Overall DUI enforcement was increased as troopers are working known areas of high DUI activity. The Northern Command also have several new troopers to the area and are getting quality training in recognizing the impaired / drugged driver with the assistance of their field training officer. While some categories of enforcement had slight decrease in activity, the seatbelt violations showed a substantial increase. Some of this can be attributed to the recent "click it or ticket" campaigns that have started throughout the state. Nonetheless, as we approach the up coming summer travel months, this will hopefully provide as solid baseline for motorist compliance.

The administrative side of Northern Command saw increases in several categories. Some of those most impacted were communications, court warrants and evidence. Staffing in the communications center remains concerning, as there are still several PSD I's in training with 2 vacant positions. The evidence section is continuing to process items and correct past problems within the vault with regard to evidence, safekeeping and destructions. The new expansion of the vault has been a positive impact to the process and the evidence technician's ability to function to today's evidence standards.

Overall, the staffing within the Northern Command is beginning to stabilize as compared to last year. There are several new troopers in the middle of their field training program. Once these troopers complete their program, we can begin to implement several programs that have been planned throughout the year. Some of these programs will encompass the motors and the special enforcement team. The men and women of the Northern Command remain dedicated to the mission of the Highway Patrol. Keeping the highways safe and providing service to the many citizens and visitors remain a priority. I'm proud of the hard work all staff puts in each and every day.

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NORTHERN COMMAND CRASH STATISTICS OVERVIEW

0	April 08	April -07	% Change	March 08	% Change
Total Crashes	263	285	+7.71%	265	-0.8%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	176	194	-9.27%	187	-5.9%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	84	91	-7.69%	75	12.0%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	2	0	+200.0%	3	-33.3%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	8	15	-46.7%	21	-61.9%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	2	0	+200.0%	3	-33.3%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	1	0	+100.0%	1	0.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	1	-100.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	1	0	+100.0%	0	100.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0	0	0.0%	1	-100.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	18	9	100.0%	14	28.6%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicle	16	7	+128.5%	9	77.8%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	3	2	50%	5	-40.0%
Fatal Crashes Involving Commercial Vehicles	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

NORTHERN COMMAND FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	April-08		April -07	% Change		Marh-08	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes ##	8		15	-46.66%		21	-61.9%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes ##	123		118	+4.23%		109	12.8%
Other Arrests	537		532	+0.93%		656	-18.1%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) ##	248		262	-5.34%		253	-2.0%
Speed violations	2566		2401	+6.87%		2797	-8.3%
Hazardous moving violations	716		663	+7.99%		683	4.8%
Occupant restraint violations * ##	459		392	+17.09%		411	11.7%
Total violations [above violations included]	6300		5929	+6.25%		6692	-5.9%
Commercial Enforcement							
Hazardous moving violations-citations/arrests	17		25	-32.0%		14	21.4%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	12		22	-45.45%		12	0.0%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6]	778		621	+25.28%		613	26.9%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	0		5	-500.0%		0	0.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	35		360	-89.7%		238	-85.3%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1986		2430	-18.27%		1567	26.7%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	77		106	-27.35%		48	60.4%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	65		87	-26.43%		59	10.2%
Total school buses inspected	209		184	+13.58%		320	-34.7%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	17		22	-22.72%		35	-51.4%
Total trucks weighed	171		255	-32.94%		1530	-88.8%
Total overweight citations	37		24	+54.16%		16	131.3%
Total dyed fuel inspections	955		607	+57.33%		343	178.4%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		2	-200.0%		0	0.0%

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	April 2008	April 2007	% Change	March 2008	% Change
COMMUNICATION CENTER					
Radio Transmissions from Console	477103	296147	+61%	238939	+99.68%
CAD Incidents	19279	22234	-13%	15564	+23.87%
Telephone Calls	17518	17960	-2%	21840	-19.79%
CAD Logs	155359	164569	-6%	123497	+25.80%
FRONT OFFICE					
Accident Reports Processed	276	307	-10.09%	374	-26.20%
Arrest Reports Processed	259	273	-5.13%	232	+11.64
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	33	20	+65%	15	+120%
Office Accident Reports Taken	6	16	-62.50%	9	-33.34%
Citations Processed	3351	3602	-6.97%	3933	-14.80%
Vehicle Impound Releases	0	0	0.00%	2	-100%
Visitors at Counter	82	-	-	67	+22.39%
Crash Reports Mailed Out	\$885.50	\$1244.25	-28.83%	\$1151.50	-23.10%
COURT / WARRANT					
Warrants Received	733	1061	-30.91%	701	+4.56%
Warrants Entered	246	173	+42.19%	112	+119.64%
Warrants Cleared	521	694	-24.92%	519	+0.38%
Warrants Validated	2936	2967	-1.04%	3070	+0.03%
Extradition / Transports	20	29	-31.03%	21	-4.76%
EVIDENCE					
New Cases Submitted	64	16	+300%	53	+20.76%
New Items Submitted	88	27	+225.93%	85	+3.52%
Items Disposed	19	135	-85.93%	331	-94.26%

EVIDENCE

- Parole and Probation submitted 37 new cases and had 47 new items submitted.
- Division of Investigation was responsible for 0 % of case submissions.
- State Fire Marshal was responsible for 0 % of case submissions.
- Attorney General's Office is responsible for 0 % of case submissions.

CONTRACT SERVICES

- One Contract using 4 hours, billed in the amount of \$259.00

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Phone Activity	Press Releases	Media Interview/TV	PIO Meetings	Accident Response
484	11	23	2	7

Website E-Mail Traffic	E-Mail Responses	Public Relations Projects	News Articles Total	Proactive News Articles	Reactive News Articles
84	472	18	12	7	5

Additional Appearances, Events and Meetings:

The month of April was an extremely busy month in the public relations coordinator's office.

- KOLO News Channel 8 interview, discussed the new public safety message recently filmed to educate the public on yielding to emergency vehicles.
- The Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) hosted a joint press conference, to showcase a joint enforcement campaign labeled **NTACT**. The acronym which stands for Nevada Citing Aggressive Cars and Trucks consists of utilizing an unmarked 18-wheeled commercial motor vehicle, owned by NDOT, along with several highway patrol cars who are charged with making traffic stops on vehicles whose driver's commit moving violations. The violations are witnessed by a uniformed Trooper riding in the cab of the commercial motor vehicle that is capturing all of the activity with an on-board camera.
- Safety Fair for the Boys and Girls Club. Parents and children had the opportunity to ask questions about Highway Patrol and the service provided to the citizens of Nevada. The Public Information Officer (PIO) gave a forty-five (45) minute traffic safety presentation to approximately one-hundred and ten (110) employees of the Nevada Pipeline Company focusing on seatbelt usage, common accident causing contributing factors and the penalties associated with DUI arrests. The fatal vision goggles were demonstrated to the group to show what an impaired driver looks like while trying to complete one of the standardized field sobriety tests.
- Three (3) elementary schools were visited to assist with "Safe Kids" week, stressing the importance of seatbelts and what kids can do to reduce the chances of an accident while riding in a car with mom or dad. To reinforcement the seatbelt message to the young students, the seatbelt convincer trailer was utilized. The PIO also spoke at one of the Reno area driver's education classes to a group of thirty (30) students. Covering such subjects as traffic stops, vehicle familiarization, distracters, seatbelt use, common accident causing contributing factors and DUI's.
- Held a press conference at Wooster High School in Reno to kick off the annual "Click it or Ticket" National Mobilization Seatbelt Campaign along with "Teen Click it or Ticket" with special emphasis on our young drivers. Last year in Nevada, thirty (37) teens lost their lives on our states highways. Of those preventable deaths, twenty-four (24) were not seat belted.
- Northern Command DPS personnel participated in the 5th annual "Tip-A-Cop event at Claim Jumper Restaurant in Reno. A new record was set by raising \$5,537.00 with all of the proceeds benefiting the athletes in northern Nevada.
- Began planning the next fund raiser for Special Olympics Nevada, scheduled for May 17th, labeled "Cops & Burgers". Law enforcement personnel from the local agencies as well as officers from the California Highway Patrol will be cooking hamburgers and cheeseburgers from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm in May. Save Mart is the primary sponsor and is donating all of the food. All of this fun will be taking place at 10500 N. McCarran Blvd on Saturday, May 17th.

CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN

The Carson/Tahoe/Minden District investigated seventy-two (72) accidents this month. This was a decrease of 18.2% and 2.7% decrease compared to April 2007 and March 2008, respectively. There was one (1) DUI accident investigated as compared to three (3) in April 2007 and four (4) in March 2008.

Troopers assigned to CTM continue to do an outstanding job with enforcement activity. During April 2008, the CTM Troopers increased their traffic stops by 13.3%.

As work hours lost reduces in numbers, it is anticipated that traffic stops will increase; thus increasing the number of citations issued. The ultimate goal of the district is to continue, to reduce the number and severity of accidents within the district.

RENO URBAN OPERATIONS

The Reno area's traffic crashes increased slightly when compared to last month's statistics. There were one-hundred and forty-two (142) total crashes this month compared to one-hundred and thirty-two (132) crashes last month. DUI crashes decreased substantially. There was a 54% increase in DUI crashes from March to April this year. Commercial vehicles crashes increased slightly from five (5) last month to seven (7) this month.

There was an increase in total enforcement from last month with two thousand six-hundred and sixty-eight (2668) violations this month compared to two thousand five-hundred twenty-one (2521) violations in March 2008. Reno Urban had a total of eighty-two (82) DUI arrests prior to crashes this month compared to 73 last month for an increase of 12%.

FERNLEY/FALLON

For the month of April, the Fernley/Fallon District was fully staffed with two (2) area Sergeants and seventeen (17) Troopers however; three (3) of the areas senior officers were currently field training two (2) new positions. Additionally, there was one (1) officer on leave. These six (6) affected positions stalled the district's ability to maintain the trend of increased enforcement this month and last, and will most likely negatively affect it next month as well. The district reported a 71.8% increase in work hours lost compared to last year.

Crash data reflect an overall decrease of 27.3% compared to this period last year. Property damage crashes decreased 34.4% and Injury crashes decreased 16.7% compared to last year. There was one (1) fatal crash this month compared to zero (0) last year. The district is currently reporting eight (8) fatal crashes this year compared to fourteen (14) fatal crashes last year with only two (2) months left in the fiscal year 2008.

As previously stated, the areas total enforcement decreased 43% due to other assignment however; there were still some notable areas of improvements. D.U.I. arrests prior to crashes were up 350% and D.U.I. arrests from crashes were down 75%. D.U.I. efforts decreased alcohol related crashes by 75% this month. As a yearly goal to reduce alcohol related crashes, area officers continued D.U.I. enforcement has resulted in a 20% reduction in D.U.I. crashes year to date.

HAWTHORNE

The Hawthorne District is allocated five (5) traffic positions. This includes four (4) Troopers and one (1) Sergeant. For the month of April the District was staffed with four (4) total positions.

The Hawthorne District handled three (3) crashes within the district. All three (3) crashes were property damage in nature. There were two (2) commercial motor vehicle crashes this month compared to only one (1) from last month. There were no DUI crashes. There was one (1) cow and one (1) antelope hit, the last accident was due to an unsafe lane change. Animals continue to be the main cause of accidents within the district.

Field Enforcement for the Hawthorne District was up to (300) three-hundred violations from last months (236) two-hundred and thirty-six, and down from last years (250) two-hundred and fifty. Total traffic stops were up to (404) four-hundred and four from last months (332) three-hundred and thirty-two. The Commercial vehicle inspections by traffic officers were up to (19) nineteen from (8) eight reported last month.

There is a large construction zone south of Hawthorne is expected to last thru the end of the summer. The district will continue to make visible enforcement stops to keep accidents to a minimum in and around the construction.

TONOPAH

The Tonopah District is authorized six (6) positions consisting of one (1) Sergeant and five (5) Troopers. The district continues to operate with one (1) Trooper vacancy.

This district investigated seven (7) crashes, an increase of one (1) crash over last month and down two (2) crashes compared to last year. Five (5) of the seven (7) crashes were property damage. One (1) injury crash involved minor injuries and the other involved DUI violations with moderate injuries. This crash resulted in both drivers being arrested for DUI and was the district's only callout. All other crashes occurred during scheduled shifts (0600-2300). Three (3) crashes resulted from animal hits, one (1) mechanical, one (1) DUI and two (2) resulted from driver inattention.

Again, district personnel did an excellent job with enforcement activity during the month. Total violations increased 41.6% compared to last year. This is outstanding considering the District was staffed with seven (7) Troopers last year. Thirty-five (35) level II and III commercial inspections were performed resulting in two (2) vehicles being placed out of service and five (5) drivers being placed out of service. Tonopah continued to maintain violation ratios well above one hundred (100) violations per position.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSE TEAM (SIRT)

SIRT is currently managing two (2) cases, the first crash occurred on SR 445 / mile marker WA18 and the driver was declared deceased at the scene. This crash is a non-prosecution case. The other crash occurred on SR208/mile marker LY14. The passenger suffered fatal injuries in the collision and the driver suffered non-life threatening injuries, this case is a prosecution case.

SIRT is in the process of completing the Basic Accident Investigation refresher lesson plan. There will be ten (10) classes offered, these courses are mandatory for all sworn Troopers and Sergeants. The training will begin with the first class on May 20th and will conclude with the final class on July 31st. This course is designed to refresh our personnel in the basics of accident investigation with an emphasis on field sketching and finished computer generated diagrams. There will also be a topic to assist our investigators with interview and interrogation tactics. This will allow our personnel to get a new look at the basics.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

Currently, the Reno Commercial Enforcement section has 22 assigned position-control numbers. During the month of April, the Commercial section picked up an additional vacant position. At the end of April, they had three (3) vacant Trooper positions and one (1) CVSI position.

This enforcement section handled two (2) property damage crashes and two (2) injury crashes, not involving commercial motor vehicles. Additionally, they assisted the traffic section with fourteen (14) other crashes, three (3) of these crashes involved commercial motor vehicles.

With the above crashes and vacancies, the "total hours worked" in April showed a decrease of nearly 8.5%. This decrease was a direct result in an increase of annual leave, training, and a decrease in overtime.

Two (2) check-sites were held this month. The WIMS (Weight-In-Motion) scales were sent back to Switzerland for repair. There were enough trucks in April weighed without the WIMS to still show a positive number for the Fiscal 2007-2008 yearly goals.

During this month a five-man team traveled to Las Vegas and was able to inspect one hundred and forty four (144) commercial motor vehicles; one hundred thirty-nine (139) commercial vehicles were stopped for moving violations. Three hundred fifty-two (352) MRO's were located and thirty-eight (38) citations were issued. Twenty-four (24) out-of-service violations were discovered on drivers and vehicles.

DPS and NDOT, in a joint effort, completed the first NTACT (Nevada Ticket Aggressive Cars and Trucks) pilot program performed in Nevada. This program targeted vehicles that cut-off commercial vehicles. A total of eleven (11) stops were made and seventeen (17) violations were discovered and citations issued.

The Northern Command Commercial section also completed two (2) non-overtime Strike Team assignments. One (1) non-overtime Strike Team assignment is required each month. The second objective was completed for a previous month this year, which was not completed due to the weather. The first 2008 bi-annual statewide school bus meeting was held in Carson City this month.

INTERAGENCY CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM (ICE)

April had a good amount of interdiction activity even with one (1) of the team's members gone due to training.

The field enforcement activities included a traffic stop led to the seizure of 5,866 grams (13.02 lbs) of Marijuana, .77 pounds of suspected LSD, the seizure of \$1,430.00 and the arrest of three (3) individuals. One of the traffic stops this month resulted in the seizure of \$39,920.00 in US currency. Additionally, there was a traffic stop that led to the seizure of 3,025 grams (6.57 lbs) of marijuana and five (5) other traffic stops resulting in the arrest of five (5) individuals with one (1) felony and five (5) misdemeanor arrests. Eleven (11) traffic stops resulted in 34.9 grams of marijuana, 2 grams of cocaine, and 1 gram of methamphetamine.

This team is currently staffed with two (2) Officers and one (1) Sergeant. Vacancies exist for positions from the Division of Investigation and the Parole and Probation Division. Interagency staffing involvement was minimal when compared to recent months. The allied agencies have been outstanding at providing K-9 resources when requested. The Washoe County Sheriff's Department now has several dogs working in the Reno area.

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

The Northern Command aircraft made six (6) flights during the month of April for a total of 23.0 hours. The pilot was on leave April 3 through April 7. There was one (1) prisoner transport from Winnemucca to Yerington. The pilot completed his six (6) month instrument currency on the 10th and on the 14th, the airplane was flown to Lincoln, Ca. where it will be painted and the interior replaced. The plane will be out of service through May.

There was one (1) enforcement mission was scheduled and flown during this month for a total of thirty-eight (38) enforcement actions. The enforcement breakdown is as follows:

Type of Violation	Enforcement Actions
Speed	29
Hazardous Moving	1
Non-Hazardous	8
Seat Belt	0

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